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ABSTRACT

This document contains the South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs (DECA) mission statement, developed by the Governor's Task Force on Education. The DECA's mission is to advocate for education, facilitate the delivery of statewide educational and cultural services and promote efficient, appropriate, and quality educational opportunities for all persons residing in South Dakota. The document contains DECA goal statements, a proposal for organizational restructuring of the department (effective January 1, 1997), and supplemental recommendations. An organizational chart for the new DECA is included. (LMI)

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ED 392 160

FINAL REPORT

GOVERNOR JANKLOW'S CITIZEN TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION

August 11, 1995

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DECA Mission Statement

The South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs shall advocate for education, facilitate the delivery of statewide educational and cultural services and promote efficient, appropriate and quality educational opportunities for all persons residing in South Dakota.

DECA Goal Statements

DECA shall assist South Dakota schools with the leadership, technical assistance and partnerships necessary for the ongoing development of locally controlled quality educational opportunities for all persons residing in South Dakota.

DECA shall be the leading advocate for a free public education system in South Dakota.

DECA shall emphasize student learning as the focus of education policy.

DECA shall assist South Dakota schools in the use of technology in instruction, administrative services and resource acquisition.

DECA shall administer teacher and administrator certification and school accreditation standards that promote a safe, quality and appropriate education of the student. Accreditation standards shall allow for local flexibility and emphasize a results-oriented assessment system.

DECA shall cultivate positive working administrative relationships with all schools, other state agencies, federal agencies and private organizations to promote the most efficient and effective operation of schools.

DECA shall administer state aid to education consistent with the South Dakota constitutional and statutory mandates.

DECA shall support and promote the centralization and coordination of education funding, assessment and statistical data with state agencies and local school districts in order to ensure quality management and accountability.

DECA shall monitor and actively pursue the availability of federal and other funds for education programs and services, coordinate the application process and distribute such funds in an equitable manner.

DECA shall coordinate a school nutrition program.

DECA shall gather and distribute education research findings.

DECA shall support and facilitate professional staff development for educators and local governing bodies.

DECA shall develop a collaborative relationship with the South Dakota Board of Regents in order to promote high quality teacher preparation programs and university admission standards, and to foster curriculum coordination with postsecondary technical institutes.

DECA shall be an advocate of lifelong learning.

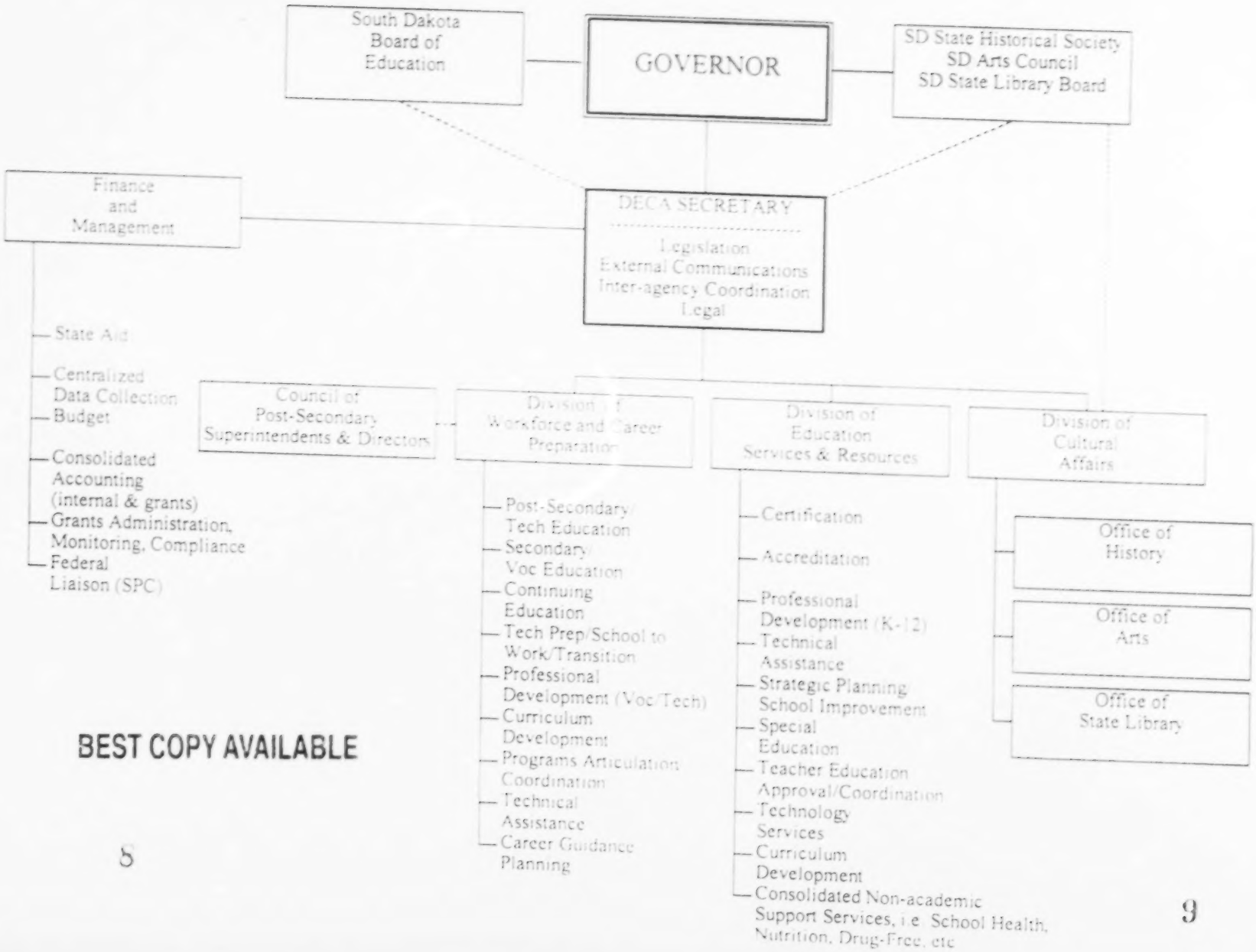
DECA shall be the lead agency for the advocacy and coordination of special education services.

DECA shall be the lead agency for the advocacy and coordination of vocational and technical education at all levels.

DECA shall promote, nurture and sustain a rich historical, artistic and literary tradition for the residents of South Dakota.

DECA shall enhance the capacity of the State Library, Office of Arts, and Office of History to support remote and community-based education and cultural services to the schools and communities of South Dakota.

The NEW Department of Education & Cultural Affairs



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DECA Organization Proposal

In order for DECA to most effectively and efficiently pursue its mission and accomplish its goals, the following recommendations are made for the restructuring of the South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs (DECA) effective January 1, 1997.

1) The South Dakota Board of Education should exercise regulatory and rulemaking authority as authorized by SDCL 13-1-11 over all accredited K-14 education in South Dakota other than associate degree programs offered under the authority of the SD Board of Regents.

2) The South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs should maintain an office in Pierre.

   (a) The Office of the Secretary of DECA should be responsible for central planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting and budgeting of all DECA activities.

   (b) DECA should provide administrative services for the Division of Education Services and Resources, the Division of Workforce and Career Preparation, and the Division of Cultural Affairs.

   (c) DECA should administer the state aid program, school nutrition programs, grants and specified student scholarship programs.

   (d) DECA should strengthen and coordinate technological applications in education.

   (e) DECA should be responsible for centralizing education funding data and education assessment data collection and distribution.

3) DECA should create and maintain a Division of Education Services and Resources. The Division of Education Services and Resources should:

   (a) Respond to the assessed needs of students, teachers, administrators and governing authorities.

(b) Be staffed with cross-trained employees of DECA and may contract for additional services with education cooperatives, public higher education institutions, postsecondary technical institutes and private entities.

(c) Emphasize cross-training in order to:

- Promote citizen participation in school affairs at the local level.
- Support training of local school board members and professional staff development for educators.
- Provide for direct distribution of education research publications and sponsor programs for discussion of relevant education research in order to assist educators and school board members with fact-based decision making.
- Identify resources for locally initiated curriculum development.
- Provide schools technical assistance to satisfy funding mandates and to comply with accreditation standards.
- Inform local school officials and educators of education reform initiatives.
- Actively pursue grant opportunities.
- Provide local school officials with information about opportunities for state, federal and private education grants.
- Assist local school officials in their strategic planning efforts and in locally initiated curriculum development efforts.
- Provide assistance to local school officials that will result in more cooperation at the local level and more efficiencies in the operation of public schools.

(d) Include a Special Education Office that encourages and supports the coordination of community-based services provided to special needs students in South Dakota by public and private agencies.

(e) Perform ordinary administrative duties.

4) DECA should designate the existing Office of Vocational Education as the Division of Workforce and Career Preparation. The Division of Workforce and Career Preparation should:

   (a) Develop results oriented standards for vocational and technical programs for 6-14 levels of education.

   (b) Gather technical and vocational research materials for distribution.

   (c) Provide technical assistance to local school districts for operation and continuation of high quality vocational and technical programs.

   (d) Convene and coordinate the affairs of the Council of Postsecondary Technical Institute Directors and Superintendents.

   (e) Encourage the development of programs with business and industry.

   (f) Assist in the coordination and distribution of state and federal funding for workforce education and training.

   (g) Perform ordinary administrative duties.

5) DECA should include a Division of Cultural Affairs with an Office of History, Office of Arts and Office of State Library. The Division of Cultural Affairs should:

   (a) Dedicate attention to school and community-based programming.

   (b) Promote, nurture and sustain a rich historical, artistic and literary tradition for South Dakota.

   (c) Perform ordinary administrative duties.

6) A Council of Directors and Superintendents of Postsecondary Technical Institutes should be created by an executive order and convened by the Division Director of Workforce and Career Preparation. The Council should be responsible for the coordination of postsecondary technical curriculum planning, annual budget formulation for the postsecondary technical institutes, articulation with secondary schools and the SD Board of Regents, and promotion of the technical preparation programs in South Dakota. The Director should convene the Council on at least a quarterly basis and report Council proceedings to the Secretary of DECA who should further report to the State Board of Education, Board of Regents and the Governor.

7) An Integrated Education and Work Preparation Services Team shall be formed by the Governor to coordinate the education/work preparation programs currently administered in the Departments of Education and Cultural Affairs, Labor, Human Services, Social Services, Governor's Office of Economic Development and the South Dakota Board of Regents. The Team should be chaired by a liaison official from the Governor's office.

Supplemental Recommendations

In addition to the formal mission, goals, organization and operations proposals approved by the Task Force and forwarded to Governor Janklow for consideration, the Task Force also recommends the following:

1) The Governor should give continued attention to appointing experienced current or past local school board members to the South Dakota Board of Education.

2) The state should no longer authorize or fund full or partial positions to advise or coordinate the activities of student vocational education organizations such as FFA, FHA and VICA. Local boards should make local decisions concerning the advising and coordination of these organizations.

3) Personnel functions and services within all state agencies should be centralized within the Bureau of Personnel.

4) The South Dakota Board of Education and the South Dakota Board of Regents should coordinate, collaborate and meet on relevant education issues.

5) An accelerated schedule for the negotiation and adoption of articulation agreements between secondary education, postsecondary technical education and higher education should be adopted.

6) Mission and goal statements for education cooperatives, multi-district secondary vocational schools, postsecondary technical institutes and higher education institutions should be adopted by the respective entities in order to promote the most comprehensive and integrated education program in our state in partnership with DECA and the pre-K-12 schools.

7) Recommend study of the feasibility of downsizing or consolidating the current boards attached to the Division of Cultural Affairs.

8) Recommend that the Office of Arts currently located in Sioux Falls, and the State Historical Preservation Office currently located in Vermillion, be relocated to available state office space in Pierre.

9) DECA should review its personnel, eliminate unnecessary duplications, and operate with fewer FTE's.

10) All local public school districts should be encouraged to study the feasibility of formal school district consolidation and or the creation of multi-school programs for curricular and extra-curricular educational activities to achieve optimum efficiency and to respond to student needs in all districts.

11) The licensing of postsecondary proprietary schools should be transferred to the NH Department of Commerce.

12) Additional flexibility and coordination should be adopted for school reorganization and property tax collection.